

The Texan

Newsletter of the Texas CW Traffic Net (TEX)

**** See "TSN Corner" and "RN5 Corner" on the Last Pages ****

Net Manager: Position Open (W5DY resigned due to poor health)

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November-December 2021

Welcome to New TEX Stations

Recently we have had 3 new stations start to check into TEX. Please join me in welcoming them.

Jon, KZ5Z, is in Springer, OK (southern OK, about 50 miles from the TX border near I-35)

Jon has a very interesting biography on QRZ, which I recommend you take a look at. He did not have any electronics training while in the Navy (he was a medical corpsman there). Years later he got a license around 1980 while working as fire chief in his home town. He learned a lot by assembling a Heathkit HW-101, which was a great first rig. The receiver worked right off the bat. Jon soon became more proficient with CW and after dabbling with SSB a little decided he preferred CW (as some of us on TEX do).

After about five years in Oklahoma Jon accepted a job with the Diplomatic Telecommunications Service as a Communications Officer. For the next eighteen years he traveled around the world working at various Embassies and other locations as a communicator. In the early days, CW was still used a lot so it was a dream job for a ham. During this time he was licensed overseas as G0COB, KZ5Z/DU1, DA1LO and VK1KZ.

We're very happy to have you join us on TEX, Jon.

Dave, WB5VIH, is in Merkel (near Abilene)

I need an email address for Dave if he checks in and you are net control.

From QRZ: Dave retired from the United States Air Force as an E-8 or Senior Master Sergeant, got a degree in accounting, and went to work in Abilene. He is now retired from accounting and runs his own ammunition manufacturing company.

Jim, K5JFB, in Ft. Worth

Jim has no biography on QRZ but it shows he held the previous call AC5QK.

Welcome to all. Please join us on early, late, or both sessions of TEX.

Excerpt from Jack, W5TFB's Book

Here is the next excerpt from Jack's book. Jack goes with Sue to her house and finds a lot more than he imagined.

We arrived. Brenda and the kids were back. I told Brenda, "The stock could simmer the rest of the day, then strain and put up. Jo will enjoy the skin and the vegetables if you have the patience to pick out the bones. When I broke them I don't think there were any splinters, and after all afternoon cooking they should be fairly soft, but I would look anyway."

Mae and Sue were putting their stuff in the Z, and I told Brenda I cleaned the oven and washed dishes. Mae and John had dried and put up the dishes. "The paper towels in the trash have lye on them, so take care. The roaster pans are soaking in soapy water."

We were sitting in the dining room, actually the de facto living room. It was a nice room, high ceilings and big windows looking east. The table was elliptical, and each of the six chairs had arms and cushions on the seats. Everything maple. The two corners opposite the windows had maple china cases with a narrow drawer, and an underneath cabinet. Between the cases was a long narrow parson's table, probably for a buffet.

Sue came in to say it was time to go. Brenda gave me a little hug, and I gave John his \$2,400 back. I'm not sure he knew why. He thanked me for telling him how to use the choke, and said he was going to a parts store Monday to get that additive. We left. Outside Sue told me to park behind the house. There was a wide blacktop driveway to a place to park.

The trip back was easy. Sue's house was about a mile from town, on the north side, set back from the road. She had a barn, a huge vegetable garden, and an orchard, extent unknown. The terrain was flat and free of natural trees. There was another building, crude carpentry but well maintained. She saw me looking at it and told me it was the slave quarters. Presently her gardener's family was living in it, and sometimes a guest or a new employee. The wife helps with some housework, mainly cleaning the office. They were free to eat from the garden and sometimes came to the big house to eat. I asked when the house was built and she said 1850-52. She said the surrounding land is hers also, about 60 acres. She sold the other 580 acres (keeping the mineral rights) of the section to a big farming company that grows cotton and sugar cane. She got more for that than she paid in the first place.

I never figured out how many rooms the big house had. Sue had made no attempt to restore anything. It had modern windows, was well insulated and sealed, and half of the first floor was partitioned off, office space for her company, about 1,600 square feet.

Before we went in she wanted to show me the office. It had a separate entrance from the back with a nice well-lit parking lot. It was Saturday and only a security guard was there. Sue took me to his office by the back door so she could introduce me. There were the standard black and white monitors for the cameras, and I saw a Sun server in a closet with a multiple DVD writer that was multiplexed. I asked him how many hours they got on a DVD. He said it depended, everything was event driven, but usually more than one week's worth. Since I didn't see any DVDs lying around I assumed they were using rewriteable DVDs and, since they had ten in the multiple writer box, that would be two or three months worth. There were

six unused bays. He made me a photo ID to clip on in case I wanted to go there during business hours. It also opened some locks. I had to give him my SS number. Then I had to leave. I went outside. Later I learned Sue had to sign off on it not in my presence (I suppose to avoid someone forcing her to do something) and assign me those privileges. I was given, initially, I was told, just access to the laundry, library, bedroom, and media center. I learned later that wasn't all. The domestic downstairs was like any house without locks all over the place except the doors to outside and the office.

When I was fetched and returned I asked him how many there were of him. He said 6, working in fourteen 12-hour shifts (midnight until noon and noon until midnight) and five 8-hour shifts (8 until 5 with an hour for lunch) to handle the daytime load. That left time for everyone to have a yearly two week vacation and accumulate sick leave. She told me she had 40 more working for her out of Lafayette and Baton Rouge but most either traveled or worked at home. The only thing missing was a hanger with a Lear Jet inside and a 3500 foot runway. I asked her, and she said it was not cost effective. I asked what they did there, and she said there were two main activates: long-term planning and money management, and research. I asked, "Research?" She said they looked all over the world for systematic trends that would suggest the collapse of a firm or market, especially one in the energy sector. She said she had cash looking for red ink.

She added, "What you see here is just the bookworms and accountants, a lawyer, and an economist specializing in the energy sector. There are 12 interns and 10 full-time, most with either a Ph.D., LL.D., or CPA education, although the most productive person working here has a Master of Library Science from Minnesota. I wish I had ten of her."

I said, "Why all the security?"

"It's not about stealing property. What we have here is data that cost a lot to obtain and which, if it got away, would be worth nothing to us. The company is incorporated, but all of the stock is held by me and people in the company who do the work. The stock is not publicly traded. I am chairman of the board and members, who serve for expenses only, are an oil and gas lawyer, an economist, a geophysicist, and three former (retired) employees. Members serve for six years and are replaced on a rolling system every year unless someone quits or is removed, maintaining always the 1-1-1-3 mix.

"Each year the par value of the stock is increased by the preceding year's net profit, except that it will never be more than 12% or less than the core rate of inflation. In the twelve years since we became a corporation, it has always been 12. The original par value was computed by finding the net worth of the company, as checked by an external auditor, and dividing that by 1,000,000. Initially those were all mine, par value about \$9. The current par value is just over \$35. No one can at present buy stock. The rest of the profits have been used to take on more employees and add to the physical plant, including this office space. The first of December each employee gets a yearly bonus of their average weekly salary in company stock at the par value. At any time anyone can sell stock for the current par value, in cash, of course from my personal funds, in escrow in case I am incapacitated. I then resume ownership of those shares. In addition, each employee gets a merit raise determined by their Department Head but never less than the core inflation rate nor more than 20% unless approved by the board."

“Sounds like a nice deal for all. Stable. How much does the CEO make?”

“The same as the Department Heads, except he has a company car, a full-time secretary, and a slightly nicer office, although all of the offices are the same size, 80 square feet. There are 16 offices. There is a door from the office to the house but I wanted you to see the house from the front.”

The residential part of her home had mainly Danish furniture. Obviously someone liked teak, probably Sue. I was looking for the standard grand gold leaf decorated staircase, but there was none. It was a modern stair, 4 feet wide and straight, with a landing to each side at each end branching off at right angles, one step at the top and two at the bottom. The house faced east, so this would be a nice morning space and a cool evening one. The room had corner sofas around the west wall with generous end tables, and a single arm chair facing each sofa just under the stair. In the center was an unobtrusive door, which must go to the office. Under the stairs I spotted a noise-canceling system that sent to one side of the back audio which, in the range of voice frequencies, cancelled what you got directly from the other side.

There was other furniture near the windows, and on the north side two serious Danish chairs were up close to a chess board, a clock and pads for keeping an account of the moves ready. Away from the board were two more chairs that could swivel, not likely to be Danish. If there was one single impression I got it would have to be this: In spite of its cluttered composition, two groups of up to four could have a quiet conversation, and eight others, perhaps ten, could enjoy a sunrise or a cool afternoon, while yet another two could play chess.

On the north side there were two doors, one to a restroom and the other to a fairly large family room, with a door opening outside. I noticed a huge collection of chess books, some dating back to Paul Morphy, the great New Orleans master who dominated chess worldwide during the decade starting in 1857. There were perhaps twice as many other books but I didn't check them. On the south side two doors opened to a cramped broom closet and the dining room. The dining room had a boat-shaped teak table with 12 ladder-back teak chairs. Sue explained that the company sometimes used the room for larger meetings. There was a simple vase in the center with flowers, and three candles at each end. Nothing else other than a serving cart, teak and Formica with large teak wheels. In each corner was a corner cabinet, painted pine I would guess but well-done, with random pottery and knickknacks. They all looked old. I asked and was told they were all found in the house when she got it. Much more was found, especially pottery, that was broken beyond repair.

A swinging door connected the dining room to the kitchen. The kitchen itself was 15 by 15 with a modest pantry, 5 by 8, and a breakfast area almost the same size. By the breakfast area was another door to the outside. Maple butcher-block counters ran continuously along 12 feet of the south wall with an icebox at one end and a corner cabinet at the other, the counter extending an additional foot over that cabinet. A free-standing gas range was next with an overhead microwave oven built into the hood, then stainless counter, then an electric double wall oven. Temporary storage of items such as a stand mixer, food processor, and blender, at counter level, was next. This was beside a generous pastry/bread area along the north wall of the kitchen. Then a triple sink, a stainless countertop for depositing soiled dishes, underneath was a dishwasher beside the door to the dining room.

There was one additional work area: Centered in the kitchen was a 2 by 7 island, with 3 foot clearance in all directions. I suppose it was logically a small bar, for it had a small rectangular sink at one end, but it would be a good place for making pasta (there was a pasta machine tucked away beside the wall oven cabinets). The sink had three faucets, one for tap water and washing with a three way valve, one with filtered chilled water, and one with nearly boiling water. With two people, one cranking and feeding rolled-out dough and the other, working from the other side, pulling it out and keeping it untangled, making fresh pasta would be easy, even fun. I later noticed a warmer oven on the end opposite the sink, nearest the dining room. Whoever designed the kitchen did not include a marble top for making candy, but later I found a 23 by 29 inch slab of 1 inch marble in a vertical cabinet. Heavy! Another marble slab, cut to fit in the gas oven with half inch clearance all around, was beside it, good for French bread and pizza. Overall, it was a good kitchen that two could cook in comfortably, three most of the time, and that could turn out a lot of baked or roasted dishes, but that had only four burners. (There was a portable electric burner, 3000 watts/25 amps, with a heavy duty cord and a heavy insulated base, stored under the island sink. It had a temperature probe and a dial like on an electric skillet which would come in handy when making candy. I had never seen anything like it.) The island looked like a nice place for doing many things that do not require multiple heat sources.

I asked Sue if we could see what she had done upstairs. We went back to where we started and took the stairs. Upstairs the floors, except for the library and the center part of the media room, were carpeted. I won't say I twisted an ankle walking on the luxurious carpet, but it took me by surprise and I almost did. The second floor had much higher ceilings, looked like 12 feet. (I learned later that they had lowered the ceiling in the first floor to 8 feet.) There was a media center on the west side, a library across from that, and four bedrooms, each one occupying a corner. Each had a nice private bath, a huge closet, and as far as I could tell they were almost identical. Rarely democratic, a master bedroom for all, something I've never seen in a house.

I could tell which was Mae's and which Sue's. The others had the same furniture but it was covered in ghostly dust covers. Sue had the south-east room, and Mae the north-west one. The north bedrooms were a little smaller to make room for a public bathroom. Between the corner bedrooms on opposite sides of the hall were the library and the media center. A broom closet on the south side and a large restroom on the north, plus two doors on each end told the story. The only concession to the history of the house could be seen in the lighted portraits of early household members (individually and in groups), including some of the slaves, along the long hallway on the west side. They were wonderfully restored. Seeing them, I asked how they managed to be preserved. Sue said they were found in the attic carefully packed and disguised to look like part of the roof. I tried to imagine that but didn't get anywhere. I asked, "Why didn't you restore the whole house?"

"Time. Cost. Plus the house was already gutted and most of the woodwork and cabinetwork stolen. The original house had solid native pecan paneling. When I bought it the slave quarters were in good shape compared to the house. My architect said it would be cheaper to raze the house and start over. So I fired him and hired a contractor (and master carpenter) and gave him a budget equal to the architect's fee and retainer, plus materials and labor he contracted out. He hired a small crew, retained a civil engineer on a consulting basis, and went to work. The architect filed suit, but it was thrown out. It only took a year to finish, except

for the furnishings, and the cost was less than the office space alone would have been if built from scratch elsewhere.”

I asked if I could look over the library. The library had big internal glass windows to each side of the door, lighting the hallway especially in early morning.

We entered the library. To my right was a door, which I guessed opened into Sue’s bedroom. (That was wrong, it was a coat closet.) Beside that was a glassed-in area with a roll-top desk, a Mac computer, top of the line, a QMS color laser printer shared by everyone who used the library, a flat bed scanner that could handle 11 by 17 sheets, a small conference table, four chairs like those in Brenda’s dining room, a secretary’s chair parked at the roll-top desk up against the wall, and at least 12 linear feet of real slate blackboard. There were shelves for books in the process of being added to the collection.

I asked Sue if she had a librarian, and she said MWF from 8 until noon, who also is head of research in her company. She had a MLS from Minnesota, which better prepares one to supervise a research group than it might seem. She did enjoy being close to a developing library even if only part time. I told her, “I think I know where you got the idea for this room.” She didn’t comment. It was probably insensitive of me to mention that. She told me a local high school student comes in every day after school to shelve books left lying around and to read the shelves against the catalog, two hours a day, for which she got \$7.50 an hour, a good deal for all. She and the librarian communicated by leaving messages in FIFO (First in First Out) files on the Mac. When one removes an item from the library they were expected to scan their employee barcode and the barcode on the book, and the database would be automatically updated. (That is easy but I can imagine it is not always done.)

I read the shelves, at the same time getting a rough estimate of the size of the collection. They were using the Dewey decimal system, named for Melvin Dewey. It was good for a small library but does not easily accommodate a completely new category or sub-category. Nothing does that perfectly. I’ve always thought a large library should be closed stacks, with an army of workers to fetch things and an on-line catalog, extensively cross-referenced, pointing to the physical books, which are filed by size and date of arrival. This library had a good on-line catalog with small Macs scattered around to access it. You didn’t need a password if that is all you wanted to do. You needed a username and password to do anything except access the data base. I tried it and found it to be natural and easy to use.

The super Mac ran a high priority interrupt-driven process that managed the small computers and processed requests. The office server, a Sun, and the library Mac communicated by message passing, which gave neither system access to the other. There were shelves around three walls of the library, with window seats where the windows broke the shelves. Inside there were eight 6 by 8 ft wide double shelves placed like dominoes on edge. These would not do in a public library because you could not get a wheelchair down the narrow space. The wall shelves on the hall side were not all books; below the books, at the 28 inch level, was a narrow pull out shelf to write or look at a book on, and below that were shallow cabinets. The shelves were about half full. I guessed there were right at 10 thousand books, with room for that many more. My personal library is twice that.

Over half of the books were about business stuff. Those were on the inside shelves. I couldn’t understand a few of the titles. There was a folio space in each of the eight double cases on

the north side with stuff like seismic data and large maps. This space was close to being full. I asked, "Does your company use this library?" That was a stupid question. "Yes. All the expenses of the library are business expenses. That includes the expenses of the media center. Would you like to see that? You can come back here later." "OK."

This one was a surprise. There were two doors, one at each end. At the front (the north end) of the room was a 52 inch plasma display mounted on the wall, flanked by white board on both sides. There were no windows. The distance from the floor to the bottom of the display, as well as the angle at which it tilted, could be set from the projection booth. There was also an overhead projector waiting in the north-west corner (which seemed lame compared to the rest) and a pull down silver beaded screen which could be deployed manually or from the booth. There were two columns of comfortable theater seats, each with a student desk top that could be brought up and folded over. Each seat had a USB and coax and twisted-pair Ethernet connection. With four rows and three seats on each side of center you could seat two dozen. There were probably more folding chairs at hand. Centered in the back was a projection booth and a rack mounted Mac that controlled the sound system. It probably did a lot more, I didn't ask. They had 8 and 16 mm projectors, DVD and CD changers, a VHS player, and a 2 by 2 inch slide projector. I imagined that the computer also controlled them. There was a projection unit suspended from the ceiling. "So this is for company presentations?"

"Yes, but the chairs are comfortable enough for family and friends to watch TV or a movie. We rarely do either."

We returned to the hall. I could tell by the sky that it was about 7. I asked, "Are you hungry?" It was my turn to get the no, this time not as loud. I needed a bath, at least a shower. I asked where would I sleep, and she said in the room next to hers. We entered. I was surprised to see the ghosts were gone and towels and body washing stuff was laid out on the bathroom counter.

Sue said, "I took the liberty of having your belongings brought upstairs. They are in the second drawer of the chest. I'm tired and will go rest now. I need to talk to Marie first. Been a long day." She left. I had a long-overdue shower.

To Be Continued

TEX / RN5 Mailbox:

Please send in your feedback, gripes, and suggestions.

We have had quite a few poor propagation nights the last several weeks. See the Operating section for info on the SDR receivers referenced in some of these emails, which provide a representative sample of our difficulties.

Randy, N5RL, October 27: The last two nights on late Tex have exhibited poor band conditions between you and me. Tonight you were very weak and unreadable most of the time. The only station I heard was K5RG Ken and no one else, Ken was good copy. . My noise locally may have gone up some but I don't think that was the biggest problem. Tuesday was very poor too and I have been holding 3 QTC reports for you. On Tuesday I heard

W5FEA (weakly), W5DY (best signal of all), W5DAE (weakly), and you too to some degree but not where it was good enough to pass any traffic. 73 Randy N5RL

Pete, K5GM, October 28: I guess the solar X flare from this morning finally got to us! You simply disappeared. I heard WAN very well at 0330Z! The solar mass ejection will probably arrive tomorrow or Saturday so I don't expect that CAN or WAN will be very good. 73, Pete

Randy N5RL Nov 22: Early TEX was a mess tonight ... Jim FEA was NCS and he didn't hear much of anyone. I would not have either without the help of the northern Utah SDR site .. he heard me calling but didn't get enough to truly QNI me. I then went to the Texas SSB net .. same issue there .. but with the help of the SDR site on receive they finally got me in .. sigs were dropping in and out very quickly. Just thought you might be interested. 73 Randy N5RL

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Jack, K5WNU, Nov 5: Steve, I had to leave for TN in a hurry. I had a break-in at my trailer. Got up there and it was a mess. Lost food out of the freezer and they trashed the rest of the camper. Got it cleaned up and took a couple days break then winterized it to hold things until spring. Got home late Wed night and got back on the net on Thursday evening. So now back to normal for awhile. Thanks for checking on me. 73, Jack

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Although it is not a TEX topic, thought you might be interested in the changes to the Central Area Staff on Nov 21. See <http://www.k6jt.com/CAS/> . Steve

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Jon, KZ5Z, Nov 22: Thank you Steve and thanks very much for welcoming me into the net. After 40 years on CW almost exclusively it is interesting that my recent SSB adventure led me to the 7290 net which led me to Sam, W5CU who led me back to the TEX CW net, hi. CW will always be my first love. I listened to your net for some time to make sure I had the procedures down and I continue to read what I can find on net operation. I'm still a rank novice though and have a lot to learn. Thank you and all the NCS' for your patience. My current responsibilities will probably prevent me being a NCS in the near future but I hope to participate as much as possible. Thank you for asking. Vy 73, Jon KZ5Z

Also see the opening story in this newsletter – Ed.

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Randy, N5RL, November 27: Friday on TEX was a mess with a major contest taking place and when those times occur the best thing we can do is move to our secondary frequency on 80 meters. This coming week I am intending to send a message on the net and asking net members to move to 3593 when contest QRM is bad on 3541. I think all TEX members should be prepared to do that and I intend to call the net there (3593) when this happens again, my message will so advise. Its not practical to be on 3541 with gads of QRM when 3593 is perfectly clear. You might want to pass that along in your next news letter Steve. and remind members we also have a backup frequency on 40 meters if propagation is better there. 73, Randy N5RL

PS .. I called early TEX on another frequency that day but late TEX was right there with all the DX contest clutter

Thanks, Randy, everyone note that 3593 is the published alternate frequency during contests.

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Ron, KE4DRF, Dec 1: Steve, I have several folks in the Section who would like to get involved in the Texas Slow Net. Can I do anything to revitalize that? What is the current schedule and Freqs? Several folks have tried to catch it and have not heard anything. Thanks, Ron KE4DRF

Note that Ron is the STM of STX. I advised him of the TSN schedule and to contact Jason, KD5RQB.

Will do Steve, thanks. I will reach out to him, and also try to get some more interest from STX. His CW can't be as bad as mine, I always say if I ever got a vanity callsign it would be K5QRS, both because it would save time, and also make my sending crisper just by practice :-)

Ron KE4DRF

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Sam, W5CU, Dec 5: Glenn brought 8 RN5 tonight but with the QRN from this major cold front passing he was not traffic quality at my location. N9CK had to relay and was easy to copy, well above the noise level.

It's ironic that apparently there are popular local nets in DFW and now Houston, but none of the participants are CW operators. And the CW operators don't have time to get on 2 meters and pass traffic on those nets. The disconnect is obvious. Can we make the K8AMHs of the world become proficient at CW? Doubt it!

73 / Sam W5CU

Note this refers to the large number of messages that were being sent by VE3GNA on CAN – Sam got a book of over 40 one night. See the explanation in the RN5 Corner of this newsletter. Glenn agreed to send only 8 at a time on CAN and the rest via digital. Ed.

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Pip, WB4FDT, Dec 12: Greetings I am looking for WB5BFW/KC5VX-Nelson "Bill" Clinger from Fort Worth. Anyone have any info? I think he was a Tex cw manager at one time.

From **Pete, K5GM**, Dec 12: Phil, I remember Bill, WB5BFW, but would have to review my files from when I was TEX mgr to put a date on that. Wasn't his son WB5BFX? You know that QCWA maintains a library of Call Books, which might help you.

73 Pete

If anyone else has any information, please send it to me and I will pass it along to Pip. Steve

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TEX Net Topics

The TEX Duty Schedule and Roster are shown below. If you are willing to take any of the open positions, please advise so the schedule may be updated. Note that early RN5, CAN, and WAN are all back on 80 meters. Still missing coverage for 2 NCS slots and 4 RN5/1 and 1 RN5/2 slot. The Roster has been updated.

TEX CW Net Weekly Schedule

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NC 1	W5FEA	N5RL	W5FEA	N5RL	N5RL	No Net	Open
Backup	Open	Open	K5GM	W5FEA	Open	No Net	W5FEA
NC 2	K5GM	K6JT	K6JT	K6JT	K5GM	No Net	Open
Backup	Open	W5FEA	Open	Open	Open	No Net	W5FEA
RN5 1	N5RL	Open	K5GM	Open	Open	No Net	Open
Backup	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	No Net	Open
RN5 2	W5CU	K6JT	K5RG	K6JT	K5GM	No Net	Open
Backup	Open	Open	W5CU	Open	Open	No Net	Open

TEX/1: **3541**/7106/3593 at 19:00 CT; TEX/2 **3541**/3593/1841 at 22:00 CT

RN5/1: **3567**/7108 at 19:30; RN5/2: **3567**/7108/3598 at 21:30 CT

TSN: **3570** - 19:45 CT; CAN: **3552**/7052/3590/7108 - 20:30 CT; WAN: **3552**/7052 - 22:30 CT

RN5 Backup: K5GM, K5RG, N5RL

NCS Backup: W5FEA, K5GM, K5RG, N5RL, W5DY

TEX Roster

Call	Name	Location / Notes	Call	Name	Location / Notes
KW5AS	Skip	Victoria	NM5M	Eric	Plano
N5BA	Brian	Houston	N7NET	Scott	Crossett AR
WA5CAV	Dick	Pineville LA	* KB5NJD	John	Duncanville
W5CU	Sam	Edmond OK, /0 CO	K9NY	Bill	Canyon Lake
N5CXX	Steve	Richardson (K6JT)	K1PKZ	Paul	Tom Bean
W5DAE	Don	San Angelo	WA5PRI	Don	Thibodaux LA
W5DY	Rodney	Goliad	* K5RG	Ken	Houston
W5ESE	Scott	Dripping Springs	N5RL	Randy	San Antonio
* W5FEA	Jim	Graham	KD5RQB	Jason	Atlanta
K5GM	Pete	Austin	W5TMO	Mike	Austin
KM0I	John	Hattiesburg MS	K5TSK	Hank	Pearcy AR
KA9IKK	Bill	Katy	KD5TXD	Pat	Kingsville
K5IX	Dave	Brackettville	W9VE	Don	Dallas
K5JFB	Jim	Fort Worth	WB5VIH	Dave	Merkel
K6JT	Steve	Plano	WB8WKQ	Jeff	Michigan
* W6LFB	Jim	Denton	KZ5Z	Jon	Springer OK
WA5MS	Marty	Argyle			

* Capable of 160 meter operation

Statistics:

October 2021:

Jim, W5FEA, was first place with 50 (96%), Don, W5DAE, was 2nd with 47 (90%), and Randy, N5RL, was third with 43 (83%). Thanks again to all of you who checked in.

Visitors: Mike, KG5RXG, in Austin

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note there were 52 sessions reported out of a possible 52 (no Saturday nets). Traffic averaged 1.5 per net session (2.4 last month). Net time averaged 11.3 minutes per session (12.2 last month). Check-ins averaged 4.8 per session (4.8 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (October 2021)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
N5BA	Brian	1	1					
		0						
W5CU	Sam	4	7	1	3			
*		3			3			
W5DAE	Don	25	47					
		22						
W5DY	Rodney	15	36					
		21						
W5FEA	Jim	25	50	10		25		
*		25		5	1	25		
K5GM	Pete	5	22		2			
*		17		8	6			
K5IX	Dave	8	9					
		1						
K6JT	Steve	0	13					
*		13		13	9		13	
K5RG	Ken	0	6					
*		6			5			
N5RL	Randy	24	43	15	1			
*		19						
KG5RXG	Mike	0	1					
	Austin	1						
W9VE	Don	12	13				12	
		1						
Totals		248		52	30	50	25	0
				100%	58%	96%	48%	0%
QTC 1		10	79					
QTC 2		69		Sessions:		52		

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
Time 1		275	588					
Time 2		313						

November 2021:

Jim, W5FEA, and Randy, N5RL, tied for 1st with 44 (88%), Don, W5DAE, was 2nd with 38 (76%), and Jon, KZ5Z, was 3rd with 34 (68%). Way to go, Jon, in your first month on TEX! Thanks again to all of you who checked in for your support.

Visitors: Rick, KC8YTV in Ohio

The complete list of stations and traffic / liaison totals are shown in the following table. Note that there were 50 sessions reported out of a possible 52 (no Saturdays). Traffic averaged 1.6 per net session (1.5 last month). Net time averaged 12.0 minutes per session (11.3 last month). Check-ins averaged 5.3 per session (4.8 last month).

TEX Net Statistics (November 2021)

Call	Name	QNI	Total	NCS	RN5	TTN	DFW	TSN
W5CU	Sam	8	17	4	3			
*		9		5	8			
W5DAE	Don	19	38					
		19						
W5DY	Rodney	15	27					
		12		1				
W5FEA	Jim	21	44	9		20	1	
*		23		1		21		
K5GM	Pete	2	17		2			
*		15		7	5			
K5IX	Dave	6	9					
		3						
K6JT	Steve	0	11					
*		11		11	7		11	
K5JFB	Jim	3	3					
	Ft Worth	0						
K5RG	Ken	0	4					
*		4			3			
N5RL	Randy	21	44	12	4			
*		23				1		
KC8YTV	Rick	0	1					
	OH	1						
WB5VIH	Dave	8	10					
	Merkel	2						
W9VE	Don	13	13				13	
		0						
KZ5Z	Jon	17	34					

	OK	17						
Totals		265		50	32	42	25	0
				96%	62%	81%	48%	0%
QTC 1		11	81					
QTC 2		70		Sessions:		52		
Time 1		268	601					
Time 2		333						

Operating:

I have been monitoring a couple of different SDR sites during CAN, RN5, and TEX when I am NCS. I found that they were very helpful during some evenings the last couple weeks of the month. In fact, there was one late TEX session where both Randy, N5RL, and I were monitoring the Utah SDR. We could not hear each other over the air but were able to check in some other stations between us and coordinate because of hearing each other on the SDR.

Go to <http://www.websdr.org/> and select 80 meters and North America. You will then see several stations. The best for TEX is Northern Utah WebSDR, Corinne, Utah, U.S.A. - WebSDR #1 (Yellow). I use NA5B WebSDR in Washington DC area for CAN and sometimes for RN5 in order to receive FL stations. I can hear my own signal on both of them.

Takes some getting used to since there is a 2 or 3 character delay coming via the SDR versus direct. I have ear buds from computer SDR receive in one or both ears under headphones that have the direct signal. One has to listen to the direct signal when sending and then switch focus to the computer signal when receiving weak stations. It does take a bit of practice and can be confusing when copying traffic where QSB is present on an otherwise reasonable direct signal. Give it a try some night on late TEX.

The CWOPS contest on Wednesday evenings no longer conflicts with late TEX since it is over at 0400Z. But there are often some last-minute folks who don't have an accurate clock sending for a half minute more. Interesting to look at the range of frequencies with activity on the SDR waterfall display. Solid signals over a 10 to 15 KHz range that abruptly disappear a little after 0400Z. The CWT Thursday contest was supposed to be over at 0300Z, but seems like they may have moved it when the time changed to an hour later.

Here are the composite reports for the last 2 months for traffic handled at the region and above levels. Totals came up in October but went down a little in November.

Central US Nets Activity for October 2021

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 th Call Area	13	34	52	87	0.391
Cycle 2 9RN*	14	275	74	61	4.508
Day 10 th Call Area #	13	21	59	73	0.288
Night 5 th Call Area**	46	123	160	426	0.289
Night 9 th Call Area	58	507	206	498	1.018

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Night 10 th Call Area	46	35	121	217	0.161
Day Central US	13	88	70	188	0.468
Night Central US @	31	768	170	588	1.306
Day Inter-Area Traffic	39	56	39		100%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	77	371	76		99%
Total Voice/CW Nets		2278	1027	2138	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
WB9FHP Central Area HUB		3606	1487	2119	
KE5YTA Alternate Hub		315	189	126	
Digital Stations (14)		1482	521	961	
Total DTN Digital		5403	2197	3206	
Total Central US		7681			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					
# Manager recovering - thanks Dave, ND0CW, and Ron, WB9WKO for their reports					
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
** Nominations open for manager - thanks to NCS stations for statistics					

Central US Nets Activity for November 2021

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Day 5 th Call Area	13	39	58	93	0.419
Cycle 2 9RN*	13	203	98	42	4.833
Day 10 th Call Area #	13	34	60	76	0.447
Night 5 th Call Area**	45	98	160	385	0.255
Night 9 th Call Area	46	399	165	446	0.895
Night 10 th Call Area	57	51	153	287	0.178
Day Central US	13	119	68	216	0.551
Night Central US @	30	691	152	567	1.219
Day Inter-Area Traffic	39	91	38		97%
Night Inter-Area Traffic	59	265	58		98%

Net	Sessions	QTC	QNI	QTR	Rate
Total Voice/CW Nets		1990	1010	2112	
DTN Digital			Received	Sent	
WB9FHP Central Area HUB		3092	1295	1797	
KE5YTA Alternate HUB		321	168	153	
Digital Stations (15)		1873	731	1142	
Total DTN Digital		5286	2194	3092	
Total Central US		7276			
* Not Radio Relay International affiliated					
# Manager KC0YNS now SK; ND0CW is the new manager					
@ Manager resigned, nominations open. Composite from NCS reports received					
** Nominations open for manager, thanks to NC Stations for statistics					

Keep sending your TEX net reports and inputs for this Newsletter to me, either on the air on TEX or RN5, via Winlink, or via standard Email.

Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and Holiday Season. Wishing you good health and happiness in the New Year.

73, Steve K6JT

TEX Newsletter Editor and Statistician

TSN Corner

Texas Slow Net (Tuesday - Friday) 1945 CT 3570.0 KHz +/- QRM

Website: <http://www.k6jt.com/tsn/>

Net Manager: Jason KD5RQB, fallishere2@hotmail.com



Photo Courtesy of VE3UU

Greetings From Northeast Texas

Jason, KD5RQB, has been calling the net when he is able. There has been only 1 other check-in for several months (KD5ZCQ). Help is needed for more support of TSN. Jason tries to call up the net Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Please look for him.

Net Control Stations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
(No Net)	(No Net)	(KD5RQB)	(OPEN)	(KD5RQB)	(KD5RQB)	(No Net)

TSN Activity Reports

Month	QNI	QTC	QTR	Nr. Operators	Sessions
October 2021	12	0	84	1	12
November 2021	11	0	88	1	11

TSN Roster (January 2019 to Current Date)

Callsign	Name	QTH
KX5C	Ron	SILSBEE, TEXAS
W5DAE	Don	SAN ANGELO, TEXAS
W5ESE	Scott	DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS
KK4HCF	Sam	MARYSVILLE, TENNESSEE
KD5RQB	Jason	ATLANTA, TEXAS
N5XGG	Joe	ROCK ISLAND, TEXAS
WB8YLO	Steve	TOLEDO, OHIO
KD5ZCQ	John	ATLANTA, TEXAS

Stop by any evening Tuesday through Friday on 3570kHz at 7:45 p.m. CT and start the net if you do not hear anyone there. This is a great place to learn how to handle traffic on CW. If you are a voice net traffic handler, this is a great addition to your amateur radio skill set. See you on the air!!

73, Jason KD5RQB

RN5 Corner

RRI Fifth Call Area Net (Daily) 1930 CT on **3567** and 2130 CT on **3567**

Alternate Frequency 7052 or 3598 when conditions warrant

Serving TX, OK, LA, AR, MS, TN, AL, and NFL

Due to Frank W4DLZ becoming a Silent Key

Nominations are still open for Net Manager

Hello all and welcome to Edition 81 of the **RN5 Corner**.

Both Jack, K5WNU, and Sam, W5CU, were out of town for several days during October and November. Since they are the primary stations calling up RN5, there was not much traffic handled and many days missed. Thankfully, Jack was finally able to get his antenna fixed and return to the air.

Following is a list of the stations sending NC reports for October and November (in order from earliest date station first reported that month). Thanks to you all for supporting RN5! We can really use more NCS and CAN liaison help.

October: W8IM 1, W5CU 30, K6JT 8, K5GM 1, K5WNU 5, WA5CAV 1

November: W5CU 20, K6JT 6, K5WNU 16, W8IM 1, K5RG 1, K5GM 1

As you can see, Sam, W5CU, is the most active in calling up the net. Note that many sessions went uncovered, so any other stations who are able, please call up the net if you don't hear anyone. Since there are so few RN5 liaisons to CAN, incoming CAN traffic that could be handled is being held. This presented a problem because Glenn, VE3GNA, was sending large books for RN5 when he checked into CAN and there was finally an RN5 representative. That was simply not sustainable. So Glenn agreed to send a maximum of 8 per night and the rest via digital. Note that Saturday nets are still optional, and there are now no regular assignments for Sunday.

Thanks to all for your support of RN5, especially regulars WA5CAV, W5CU, K5WNU, K5GM, K6JT, and K5RG. John, KC4FL, continues to regularly check in from FL. Ben, KZ8Q, and Dean, W8IM, check in from FL some nights. Note that Jeff, WB8WKQ, who occasionally checks in from MI, has now recovered from serious surgery.

Please continue to pass AR and OK traffic to the TEX liaison station to take for the 7290 Traffic Net. If there is no TEX liaison, these may be sent to the 7290 Traffic Net manager, KA5AZK at Winlink dot org (also see below for subject line restrictions).

TN traffic can be sent to Jim, WA4VGZ, who is the manager of cycle 2 RN5 and located in TN. Use WA4VGZ at Winlink dot org. For Winlink addresses via E-mail, be sure to put //WL2K as the first 7 letters (including space) in the subject line. AL traffic can be handled by sending it to Don, WV5Q at Winlink.org. Don is a digital traffic station located in MS, but he has connections with AL SSB nets for passing traffic.

(Schedule, statistics, and roster on the next page)

RN5 Duty Roster

Local	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NCS #1	K5WNU	K5WNU	W5CU	K5WNU	K5WNU	(K5WNU)	Open
NCS #2	K5WNU	K6JT	W5CU	K6JT	K5WNU	(K5WNU)	Open
CAN TX	Open	Open	W5CU	Open	Open	Open	Open
CAN RX	Open	Open	W5CU	K6JT	Open	Open	Open
DRN5	Open	K6JT	K5RG	K6JT	Open	Open	Open

2021 Statistics

MONTH	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
SESSIONS	46	45
QTC	123	98
QNI	160	160
QTR	426	385
AVG QTC	2.7	2.2
AVG QNI	3.5	3.6
AVG QTR	9.3	8.6

The following roster shows stations coming to RN5 in the past 3 years and their states.

Region Net 5 Roster

Call	Name	State	Call	Name	State
WB5BNV	FRED	MS	WD5JTZ	MIKE	LA
WA5CAV	DICK	LA	KZ8Q	BEN	FL
W5CU	SAM	OK* / CO	K5RG	KEN	TX
W4DLZ	FRANK	(SK)	N5RL	RANDY	TX
W5DY	RODNEY	TX	W4SU	JERRY	(Retired)
W5FEA	JIM	TX	K5TSK	HANK	AR**
KC4FL	JOHN	FL	K4VIZ	TOM	AR**
K5GM	PETE	TX	WB8WKQ	JEFF	MI
W8IM	DEAN	FL	K5WNU	JACK	MS
K6JT	STEVE	TX	WA4ZPZ	TOM	(Retired)

* When W5CU is not present on Late RN5, OK traffic may be sent to the TEX station

** K4VIZ and K5TSK are only marginally active. Send AR to the TEX station for the 7290 net (do not use DRN5 since there is only an occasional AR liaison station there).

73, Steve K6JT

Newsletter editor and RN5 statistician